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Q. *How much money did Gerald Ford earn from his book,"Portrait of an Assassin,"based on the life of Lee Harvey Oswald who murdered President John F. Kennedy?—T.L., Wiggins, El Paso, Tex.*

A. Publishers Simon & Schuster paid then Congressman Gerald Ford and his collaborator John R. Stiles an advance of $10,000 on the book, which they split 50-50. The book, published in 1965, did poorly, never earned its advance. Ford was a member of the Warren "blue ribbon commission" assigned by Lyndon Johnson to investigate the Kennedy assassination. Ford chose as an investigator his first campaign manager and old friend from Grand Rapids, Mich., John R. Stiles, whose idea it was to write *"Portrait of an Assassin."* Subsequently when Ford was nominated for the Vice Presidency, he offered conflicting testimony to the Senate Rules and House Judiciary Committees on the use of "top secret" information in the book. "I cannot help but apologize," he said, "if the circumstances are such that there was this violation, but there was certainly no intent to do it." Ford also received $5000 from *Life* magazine for an article on the assassination. He gave $1333 to Stiles, $1333 to the late Congressman John Ray, and kept $2333 for himself. Ten per cent commission was paid to the William Morris Agency on the book sale to Simon & Schuster.